

## Appendix I

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*Bald eagles on the refuge*

# Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge Wild and Scenic River Designation Review



## Introduction

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Act), (Public Law 90-543 as amended: 16 U.S.C. 1271-1287) established a method for providing federal protection for certain free-flowing rivers, preserving them and their immediate environments for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The function of this wild and scenic river review is to inventory and study the rivers, river segments and their immediate environments within the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (NWR, refuge) acquisition boundary to determine if they merit inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Section 5(d) (1) of the Act states in part: *In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas, and all river basin and project plan reports submitted to the Congress shall consider and discuss any such potential. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall make specific studies and investigations to determine which additional wild, scenic and recreational river areas within the United States shall be evaluated in planning reports by all federal agencies as potential alternative uses of the water and related land resources involved.*

Wild and scenic river considerations are a required element of comprehensive conservation plans and conducted in accordance with the refuge planning process outlined in 602 FW 1 and 3, including public involvement and National Environmental Policy Act compliance.

## Wild and Scenic River Review for Montezuma NWR

The purpose of this wild and scenic river review is to inventory and study the rivers, river segments, and their immediate environments within the refuge planning area to determine if they merit inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

As part of the Section 5(d) (1) review process, we are required to include all river segments that are within the planning area and listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI). The NRI is maintained by the National Park Service and lists more than 3,400 free-flowing river segments in the United States that are believed to possess one or more “outstandingly remarkable” natural or cultural values judged to be of more than local or regional significance.

## Service Summary and Conclusion of Wild and Scenic River Review

There are no rivers or river segments within Montezuma NWR’s current boundary. The Seneca and Clyde Rivers flow adjacent to the refuge, and their immediate environs are within the current boundary. We reviewed the NRI and found no record of the segments located adjacent to the refuge within its listing. As a result, the portions of these rivers adjacent to the refuge and their environs are not considered by the NRI to have outstanding remarkable values or potential for special designation. Based on this information, we have determined that there are no rivers, river segments, or portions of their immediate environments that are eligible for listing under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act within the current refuge boundary. This determination will be reevaluated in 15 years, during the next comprehensive conservation plan development process.

